

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
-----202141Z 120043 /73

P 202012Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2193
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0228

POUCHED ALL OTHER AMCONSULS CANADA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: JAN 19 CLARK PRESS CONFERENCE INCLUDES
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PC ADVISORY COUNCIL AND CLARK REALISM ON
PC CHANCES IN QUEBEC BY-ELECTIONS

1. AT JAN 19 PRESS CONFERENCE, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
(PC) LEADER JOE CLARK ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF 21-MEMBER
PC ADVISORY COUNCIL. COMPOSED OF ACADEMICS, BUSINESSMEN
AND POLITICIANS, THE COUNCIL IS TO DEVELOP POLICY FOR
THE PC COMMONS CAUCUS.

2. CHAIRMAN IS REVA GERSTEIN, A PSYCHOLOGIST AND FORMER
CHAIRMAN OF ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS.
POLITICIANS INCLUDE 5 MPS (FAIRWEATHER, GILLIES,
MAZANKOWSKI, HAMILTON, AND CLAUDE WAGNER) AS WELL AS
TORONTO MAYOR DAVID CROMBIE. OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDE,
INTER ALIA, PRESIDENT OF MONTREAL CANADIENS HOCKEY
CLUB (JACQUES COURTOIS), PRESIDENT OF QUEBEC CITY BAR
ASSOCIATION (GILLES RIVARD), AND PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE
STE ANNE IN CHURCH POINT, NOVA SCOTIA (LOUIS COMEAU).

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3. ON OTHER MATTERS, CLARK TOLD PRESS THAT PC CHANCES
OF WINNING ANY OF FIVE VACANT SEATS IN QUEBEC ARE DIM
BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT WIN ONE OR TWO. HE
INDICATED THAT PARTI QUEBECOIS (PQ) HAS BROUGHT A NEW
GENERATION OF INFLUENTIAL FRENCH CANADIANS INTO PUBLIC
LIFE AND PC TASK IS TO RECRUIT YET ANOTHER GENERATION
OF QUEBECOIS TO COUNTER THE PQ CHALLENGE. HE ADDED

THAT HE PLANS TO MEET PQ PREMIER LEVESQUE "PROBABLY IN FEBRUARY" FOR DISCUSSIONS.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE PC CONTINUING SUCCESS IN THE POLLS (IT LED LIBEALS BY 14 POINTS IN LATEST POLL, MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT CLARK MUST ESTABLISH A NATIONAL LEADER IMAGE TO LEAD THE PARTY TO A WIN IN 1978. TO DO THIS, THEY ASSERT, HE MUST START ADVANCING ALTERNATIVE POLICIES BEYOND THE VAGUENESS OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO DATE. COUNCIL STRIKES US AS A DECIDELY MIXED BAG OF PERSONALITIES, AND WE ARE SKEPTICAL IT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE POLICIES FOR THE CAUCUS OR FOR CLARK.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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